GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:227
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
FOREIGN TOURS
BALIRAM

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tours undertaken by the officers and employees of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) during the last three years and till date ;

(b) the amount involved therein ;

(c) the details of the benefits accrued from said officers and employees to MTNL after returning from tour ;and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop sending the non-technical employees on foreign tour and to check the increasing expenditure therein ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) The number of foreign tours undertaken by the officers and employees of MTNL are follows:

1. During last three years - 178

2. During current year till date - 25

(b) The amount spent is as follows:

1. During last three years - Rs.215.58 lakhs

2. During current year till date - Rs. 36.76 lakhs

(c) The employees were deputed on foreign tour from time to time for participation in exhibitions, conferences, financial negotiations, meetings, testing of equipment, factory, inspections etc. Few Officers were provided Management related training and training in the CDMA WLL System beinginstalled in MTNL Delhi. Nominations to these visits is made where it is felt that participation is absolutely essential in the interest of the Company and would benefit the Organisation, as a whole.

(d) It may not be possible to stop sending non-technical staff on foreign tour. This is because employee in non-technical disciplines like Finance, PR & Marketing, Legal etc. are required to be sent for attending exhibitions/ conferences/ seminars etc. where their expertise is more relevant to the purpose of the visit. The employee to be sent is decided on case to case basis, depending on the purpose for which the foreign visit is proposed.